

**62 LINCOLN ROAD,
PETERBOROUGH,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR REF: TL 191 992



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

JULY 2014

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of a new property in Peterborough. While three trenches contained no archaeological features the easternmost trench revealed a stone wall, which was running parallel to Lincoln Road to the east of the proposed development. A small amount of finds was also collected from various contexts.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located at 62 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 191 992) (Figure 1-2). The evaluation trenches were spread out over the proposed development site and covered in total 160m² or ca. 5%, of the 0.35ha large area. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001), as well as discussions with Rebecca Casa-Hutton, Archaeological Officer for Peterborough. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (13/01132/R4FUL) for development of land at 62 Lincoln Road, Peterborough. The development comprised the demolition of the existing property and construction of a new D1 medical centre with A1 retail pharmacy, associated car and cycle parking, bins store and landscaping. The site was located within a modern residential area in the north western parts of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The site was also situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Peterborough HER.
- 2.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition for a programme of archaeological work was attached the Planning Permission. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Peterborough City Council, and was in line with standards described in NPPF 2012. The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Archaeologist for Peterborough.
- 2.3 The proposed development site was located at an average height of 10m AOD. The eastern side of the site was occupied by the current Surgery building, while the remaining area was used as a car park. The solid geology comprised Cornbrash Limestone formations.



Figure 1. Site Location.

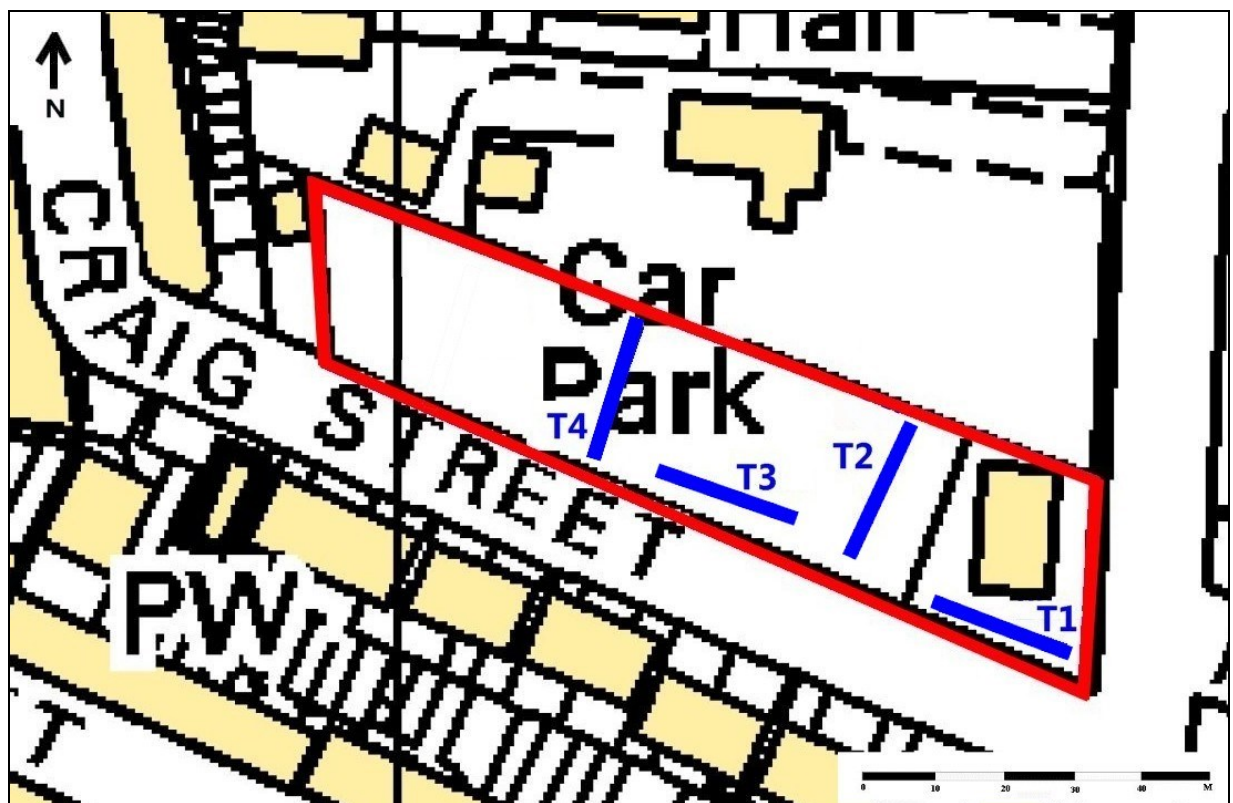


Figure 2. Site Outline and Trench Locations.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Although, there were no known archaeological remains within the proposed development site, a number of archaeological deposits and artefacts have been found in the vicinity.
- 3.2 The land surrounding the site was originally built on in the 1320s, when a barn to hold the produce of the farm at Boroughbury was built some 100m to the east of the proposed construction site (HER-nr: 01024). This work was carried out for the Abbott Adam of Boothy. It is believed that it was this barn that was demolished in 1888 to make way for the row of terraced property known as Rothsay Villas. Some 13 years later this building was bought by the Friendly Societies of Peterborough to be used as its Medical Centre and dispensary. About 100m east of the construction site are also the remains of the Medieval moated grange of Boroughbury, which once belonged to the Abbott of Peterborough (HER-nr: 09221).
- 3.3 To the south of the site is Craig Street. This road was built in the 1880s by Mr J W Craig, directly on top of the backfilled 'Long Pond' (HER-nr: 50587), visible on the Ordnance Survey maps from 1886 and 1901. This pond was linked by a stream called the 'Tom Lock' near Boroughbury to three fish ponds and the 'Swan Pond', and went on through the cathedral grounds. A manorial barn, the old Great Glebe Barn, commonly known as the "Tithe Barn" stood to the east of the car park. In 1889 it was sold by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.
- 3.4 In 2009 an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at 80 Lincoln Road revealed Medieval activity, probably relating to agriculture, in the form of a possible track way and two ditches. There were also found boundary brick walls and an undated posthole. It is possible that some of these features were Post-Medieval garden features associated with the nearby Gayhurst House (HER-nr: 51949).
- 3.5 The proposed development site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits predominately relating to the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. However, this did not prejudice the investigation against features and finds relating to other periods.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the evaluation were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
 - i) to gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development areas;

- ii) to provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets,
 - iii) to inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
 - iv) to mitigate potential threats,
 - v) to inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;
 - vi) to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;
 - vii) to interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.
- 4.2 The evaluation considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005).
- 4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:
- *characterisation of the site in the broader landscape
 - *characterisation of the activities identified on the site
 - *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Four 20m by 2m large trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 80m, covering an area of 160m², or ca. 5% of the proposed development area.
- 5.2 The location of the trenches targeted areas of the proposed development and provided representative sample coverage. Revisions and amendments of the sampling methodologies and percentages were required in Trench 1, as a result of an active water pipe in the ground.
- 5.3 The trenches were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter hand-excavation was employed to sample dig the features.

- 5.4 Thorough metal detector sweeping of exposed features and excavation spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, excavation.
- 5.5 All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws or natural clay deposits) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.
- 5.6 Deposits and layers (including buried soils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was carried out.
- 5.7 Structural remains (stake holes, post holes and gullies, as well as masonry foundations or low masonry walls and associated features) were excavated fully and documented in plan/phase, as appropriate to the requirements of the project.
- 5.8 The evaluation provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of archaeological remains therein. Judgement regarding the removal of larger structural remains (such as *in situ* masonry), or other special remains or deposits, was led by this consideration, and were made in consultation with the local Planning Archaeologist.
- 5.9 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, were collected, bagged and labelled. Artefacts were subject to preliminary study on site in order to interpret the exposed deposits. All artefacts were treated in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (English Heritage 2001).

6 RECORDING

- 6.1 Each archaeological context was recorded separately by means of a written description. The stratigraphic relationships of each context were also recorded. Independent Archaeology Consultant's *pro forma* recording sheets were used throughout. An index was kept of all record types and all trenches were described through written and photographic recording, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.
- 6.2 Each deposit was recorded by means of a measured plan at an appropriate scale. All trenches, sections and features were accurately referenced to the Ordnance Survey grid and given spot heights related to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.3 Cross sections were recorded by means of measured drawings at appropriate scales. The locations of all sections were recorded on the site plan.
- 6.4 All drawn records were clearly marked with a unique site number, and was

individually identified. The scale of the plan was recorded and all drawings were made on dimensionally stable media.

- 6.5 A photographic record comprising monochrome, colour prints/slides and digital photos formed part of the site record. Each excavation context was recorded photographically prior to removal. A number of overview photos of the site were also taken prior to any groundwork. Every photo contains an appropriately sized scale, a north arrow and labels of all visible deposits.

7 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 7.1 Underlying all other deposits in Trench 1 was the natural ground, consisting of white yellow, firm Cornbrash Limestone formations. Cut into the natural was two modern features; the concrete footing [109] (110) in the central part of the trench and the modern brick pipe [107] (108) in the eastern part of the trench. The concrete footing [107] could come from a demolished extension to the existing Surgery, as Trench 1 was situated only some 3m to the south of this building. The brick pipe [107], with its 1m deep fill of garden soil (108), had been put alongside an old limestone wall [111] (106). This wall was running along Lincoln Road and could be an old boundary wall between the road and the property.
- 7.2 There is, however, also the possibility that the wall [111] (106) was in fact the western wall of a demolished building, which was once situated along Lincoln Road. If this is the case the front of this building may still be preserved beneath Lincoln Road. This road was until the beginning of the 19th century considerably narrower, something that might have formed a space large enough for a house to fit in between the present Surgery building and Lincoln Road. The wall could not be more closely dated as no finds were found in the ca. 0.25m deep foundation trench.
- 7.3 The wall came out of the eastern section in Trench 1, so the full extension of the wall could not be studied during the evaluation. An extension of Trench 1 into Lincoln Road was impossible, as this had caused serious problems for the traffic. The visible part of the wall [111] (106) was ca. 2m x 1.8m, but it was clear that it continued towards both north and south. The wall had no mortar between the stones, something that might be expected if the wall formed part of a building.
- 7.4 No house is shown in this location on any preserved historic maps over Peterborough. Associated with the wall [111] (106) was also (105), a 0.40m thick demolition layer consisting of pieces of Cornbrash limestone mixed with garden soil.

- 7.5 Covering (105) was (104), a 0.22m thick layer of dark yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional stones, roots and charcoal. This layer was interpreted as a layer of buried subsoil, as it was covered by (103), a buried topsoil/garden soil, which was 0.31m thick and consisted of mid dark brown, loose silty clay with occasional stones roots and charcoal. Layer (103) was in turn overlaid by two, 0.12m and 0.20m thick, modern layers of yellow, loose, gravel (102) and (101).

Trench 2

- 7.6 Underlying all other deposits in Trench 2 was the natural ground, consisting of white yellow, firm Cornbrash Limestone formations. Overlying the natural was 0.30m thick buried subsoil, consisting of mid yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones (204). This subsoil was overlaid by a 0.22m thick layer of buried topsoil/ploughing soil, consisting of mid brown, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones (203). The uppermost deposits in Trench 2 consisted of a 0.30m thick bedding layer of yellow, loose gravel and a 0.10-0.15m thick layer of black solid tarmac. The trench contained no archaeological features.

Trench 3

- 7.7 Underlying all other deposits in Trench 3 was the natural ground, consisting of white yellow, firm Cornbrash Limestone formations. Overlying the natural was 0.55m thick buried subsoil, consisting of mid yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones (304). This subsoil was overlaid by a 0.22m thick layer of buried topsoil/ploughing soil, consisting of mid brown, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones (303). The uppermost deposits in Trench 3 consisted of a 0.25m thick bedding layer of yellow, loose gravel and a 0.10-0.15m thick layer of black solid tarmac. The trench contained no archaeological features, but two modern concrete pipes were present in the eastern part of the trench, where they were resting directly on the natural ground.

Trench 4

- 7.8 Underlying all other deposits in Trench 4 was the natural ground, consisting of white yellow, firm Cornbrash Limestone formations. Overlying the natural was 0.30m thick buried subsoil, consisting of mid grey, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones (405). This subsoil was overlaid by another layer of buried subsoil, consisting of 0.25m thick dark grey, plastic silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional pieces of brick and small stones (404).
- 7.9 These two layers of subsoil were both covered by a 0.12m thick layer of buried topsoil/ploughing soil, consisting of mid brown, plastic silty clay with

occasional charcoal, gravel and stones (403). The uppermost deposits in Trench 4 consisted of a 0.25m thick bedding layer of yellow, loose gravel and a 0.10-0.15m thick layer of black solid tarmac. The trench contained no archaeological features, but had two E-W orientated strips of clay in the natural ground.

- 7.10 The evaluation was carried out in good conditions with excellent co-operation from the contractors carrying out the groundworks. The results are therefore felt to be representative for the site.

8 FINDS

- 8.1 It total 10 find posts were recovered during the archaeological evaluation. All finds were collected from various layers of buried topsoil/ploughing soil in Trenches 1, 3 and 4; the contexts (103), (303) and (403). The dominating find categories consisted of sherds of pottery and pieces of tobacco clay pipes. A few animal bones were also present. The collection of finds gives the impression of being domestic waste, which have been spread out on the former agricultural land as a fertilizer. Few contexts could be used for studying possible relationships between archaeological features and the deposited artefacts: The finds recovered from the buried topsoil (103) might be contemporary with the wall [111] (106), something that may date this wall to the 17th-18th century. It is therefore interesting that all pottery from the evaluation was collected from this layer of buried topsoil close to the wall, as it may indicate high human activity along Lincoln Road.
- 8.2 The pottery consists of five sherds of lead glazed red ware: Four pieces are from the same plate and one comes from a larger vessel. The pottery can be dated to the period ca 1600-1800 AD, and the fragments of tobacco clay pipes can be dated to a similar period. It is striking that no older pottery was found within the site. This might be an indication that the area was mainly cultivated in the Post Medieval period.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 No archaeological features were discovered in the three trenches (Trench 2-4) that were situated in the Car Park in the western part of the site. The stratigraphic sequences in all these trenches were fairly similar, and the buried horizons of topsoil/ploughing soil indicate that this part of the proposed development site once consisted of open areas of farming land.
- 9.2 In Trench 1, however, an old limestone wall was uncovered along Lincoln Road. The interpretation of this wall was that it was either a boundary wall, separating the road from the property, or the back wall of a demolished building, which was once situated along Lincoln Road. If the later alternative is correct the front of this building can still be preserved beneath the road.

- 9.3 If the old stone wall, on the other hand, was a boundary wall it can provide us with important information about the old plots of land that was once laid out along Lincoln Road, when Peterborough was expanding outside its Medieval limits. If the wall formed part of a demolished building such a structure can tell us something about what a 17th- or 18th century building in this part of Peterborough looked like. It is therefore of importance that future development works in this part of the town is supervised by archaeologists.
- 9.4 During the archaeological evaluation only a limited number of artefacts were found in various layers of buried topsoil. All collected artefacts could be dated to a relatively narrow time span of ca 200 years, or the period ca. 1600-1800 A D. The fact that not a single piece of Medieval pottery was found is interesting, and could indicate that the activities of the Medieval farm at Boroughbury, situated some 100m to the east of the proposed construction site, did not stretch into the investigation area.
- 9.5 There is no question, however, that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, as proven by the information in the HER and previous investigations in the vicinity. The wider area that surrounds Lincoln Road forms part of a well documented cultural landscape in the north western parts of Peterborough, which must be taken into consideration at future development projects in the area. Lincoln Road has, after all, been an important communication link through the eastern parts of England for more than 700 years.

10 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.
The archive will be transferred to:

Peterborough Museum, Priestgate, Peterborough, PE1 1LF, Cambridgeshire

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

First Aid for Finds. English Heritage. London 2001.

HER for Peterborough. Peterborough City Council. Peterborough 2014.

NPPF 2012. (National Planning Policy Framework). Department for Communities and Local Government. London 2012.

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation. Institute for Archaeologists 1994. Revised 2001. Reading.

APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		Trench 1 (20m by 2m)		
(101)	0.12	Modern bedding layer of mid yellow, loose gravel	(102)	-
(102)	0.20	Modern bedding layer of yellow, loose gravel	(103)	(101)
(103)	0.31	Buried topsoil/garden soil, mid dark brown, loose silty clay with occasional stones, roots and charcoal	(104)	(102)
(104)	0.22	Buried subsoil, dark yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional stones, roots and charcoal	(105)	(103)
(105)	0.40	Demolition layer, Cornbrash limestone mixed with garden soil	(106)	(104)
(106)	0.25	Remains of limestone wall, N-S running. Eastern part not visible in Trench 1	[111]	(105)
[107]	1	Cut for modern brick pipe (108), vertical sides, rounded bottom	(103) (104) (105) (106) [111]	(108)
(108)	1	Modern brick pipe in fill of garden soil	[107]	(101) (102)
[109]	-	Foundation trench for modern concrete footing cut into the natural ground	Natural	(110)
(110)	-	Modern concrete footing in the natural ground	[109]	(104)
[111]	0.25	Foundation cut for wall (106)	Natural	(106)
Natural	-	White yellow, firm Cornbrash formations	-	[107] [109] [111] (104)

		Trench 2 (20m by 2m)		
(201)	0.10-0.15	Black, solid tarmac	(202)	-
(202)	0.30	Bedding layer, yellow, loose, gravel	(203)	(201)
(203)	0.22	Buried topsoil, mid brown, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones	(204)	(202)
(204)	0.30	Buried subsoil, mid yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones	Natural	(203)
Natural	-	White yellow, firm Cornbrash formations	-	(204)
		Trench 3 (20m by 2m)		
(301)	0.10-0.15	Black, solid tarmac	(302)	-
(302)	0.25	Bedding layer, yellow, loose, gravel	(303)	(301)
(303)	0.22	Buried topsoil, mid brown, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones	(304)	(302)
(304)	0.55	Buried subsoil, mid yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones	Natural	(303)
Natural	-	White yellow, firm Cornbrash formations	-	(304)
		Trench 4 (20m by 2m)		
(401)	0.10-0.15	Black, solid tarmac	(402)	-
(402)	0.25	Bedding layer, yellow, loose, gravel	(403)	(401)
(403)	0.12	Buried topsoil, mid brown, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones	(404)	(402)
(404)	0.25	Buried subsoil, dark grey, plastic silty clay with frequent charcoal and occasional brick and small stones	(405)	(403)
(405)	0.30	Buried subsoil, mid grey, plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and stones	Natural	(404)
Natural	-	White yellow, firm Cornbrash formations	-	(405)

FINDS LIST

Find nr	Context	Material	Object	Description	Date
1	(103)	Fired clay	Part of stem from a tobacco clay pipe	Fragment of a stem from a tobacco clay pipe. No stamps or decorations	17 th -18 th century
2	(103)	Fired clay	Part of stem from a tobacco clay pipe	Fragment of a stem from a tobacco clay pipe. No stamps or decorations	17 th - 18 th century
3	(103)	Fired clay	Part of stem from a tobacco clay pipe	Fragment of a stem from a tobacco clay pipe. No stamps or decorations	17 th - 18 th century
4	(103)	Fired clay	Part of bowl from a tobacco clay pipe	Fragment of a bowl from a tobacco clay pipe. No stamps or decorations	17 th - 18 th century
5	(103)	Fired clay	4 sherds of lead glazed red ware from the same vessel	Fragments of the rim and neck from a large plate	17 th - 18 th century
6	(103)	Fired clay	1 sherd of green lead glazed red ware	Fragment from the belly from a large vessel	17 th - 18 th century
7	(103)	Bone	Animal bone	Fragment of a rib bone from cow	17 th - 18 th century
8	(103)	Bone	Animal bone	Fragment of a leg bone from cow	17 th - 18 th century
9	(303)	Fired clay	Part of bowl from a tobacco clay pipe	Fragment of a bowl from a tobacco clay pipe. No stamps or decorations	17 th - 18 th century
10	(403)	Fired clay	Part of stem from a tobacco clay pipe	Fragment of a stem from a tobacco clay pipe. No stamps or decorations	17 th - 18 th century



